

Job Skills Throughout History

Purpose

Students will compare and contrast job skills needed in different time periods in United States history. Students will research the topic using a variety of information resources and write a compare/contrast essay for two historical time periods.

Materials

For the teacher: teacher-developed rubric for compare/contrast essay

For the students: access to the Internet and word processing software, Black Line Master (BLM) *Venn Diagram*

Activity

A. Pre-Activity Preparation

1. Develop a rubric that you will use to assess the students' compare/contrast essays.
2. Schedule a time for the class to go to the library and the computer lab so that the students can research a wide variety of information resources (books, magazines, newspapers, Web sites, online databases, etc.)

B. Pre-Activity Discussion

1. Ask the students to think about the job that their parents currently hold. Discuss what skills were needed for the parents to acquire those jobs.
2. Discuss that the skill set needed has evolved throughout history, which has led to changes in education, changes in when "adulthood" is reached, etc.

C. Description of Activity

1. Explain that the students are going to research the job skills needed in different time periods in history. They should use a variety of information resources such as textbooks, books, magazines, newspapers, Web sites, etc.
2. Students will choose two time periods (i.e. colonial times and railroad times) and jot down notes onto their BLM *Venn Diagram*. Explain that the students will then use this information to write a compare/contrast essay.
3. Allow students time to research the topic and complete the BLMs and write their compare/contrast essays.

Technology Literacy Standards

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII
1	X	X	X	X		X	X
2	X	X	X			X	X
3	X		X			X	X
4		X				X	X
5						X	X
6		X		X		X	
7							
8						X	
9						X	
10							
11				X		X	
12						X	
13				X			
14							
15				X			
16							

X = This Technology Literacy Standard is addressed in this lesson.

= This Technology Literacy Standard is not addressed in this lesson.

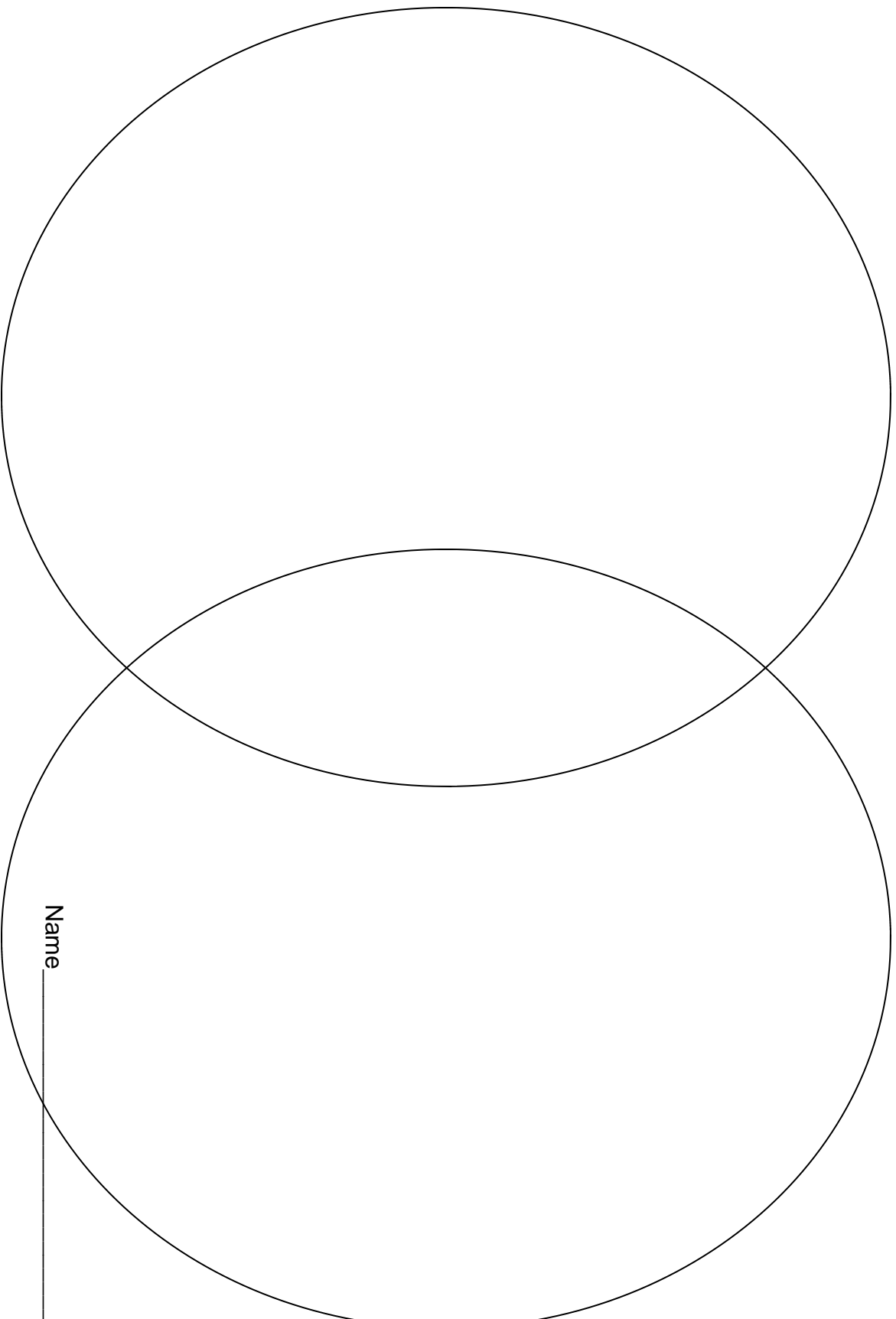
D. Close the Activity

1. Have the students share their essays with the rest of the class.
2. Discuss the evolution of job skills over history and discuss how job skills may be impacted in the future.

Classroom Assessment _____

Collect the students' essays and assess their essays using the teacher-developed rubric.

Venn Diagram



Name _____

Venn Diagram

Teacher Directions

Pass out the BLM *Venn Diagram*. Instruct students to choose two periods in history (i.e. colonial times vs. current times) and research the job skills needed during those times. Students should jot down notes on the BLM *Venn Diagram* and use that information to write a compare/contrast essay.

Answer Key

Students' answers will vary.